

I would like to thank the committee for their time and consideration of HB-1146. My name is Dr. T.P. Sivakumar and I have been practicing dentistry for over 30 years. As a practice owner in Frederick, MD I have been participating with Healthy Smiles for 18 years. I also serve on the executive committee of Healthy Smiles and I am the Shady Grove Section Chair of Pediatric Dentistry. In my capacity, I can see the impact that low reimbursements has on the ability of hospitals, anesthesiologists, allied health professionals to provide their expertise and care to these patients. I believe HB-1146 will help reduce the pay gap between public and private insurance markets. In this way it can help all our providers continue to provide our patients with the access to excellent healthcare that they deserve, regardless of their socioeconomic background. It is those who are most in need that our insurance markets are not serving. For these reasons I ask for a favorable report on HB-1146.

Best,  
T.P. Sivakumar